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Under the management of Messrs

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for comfort and convenience.

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THE OVERLAND

SECOND TO NONE IN THE TERRITORY.

Clean, neatly-kept rooms, comfortable beds, luxurious table, attentive waiters,

Are Characteristics of this House.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BLACKFOOT AGENCY.

That Strange Story—The Herald's Figures—Jack Blunt Offers His Services—The Herald's Assertions Contradicted by Official Reports—Some More Figures—Question of Veracity—Advice to the "Pioneer."

To the Editor of the Record:

The RECORD of last week contains an article referring to the Blackfoot Agency frauds, in which an extract from the Helena Herald is embodied, which purports to be an argument in reply to the letter published in your journal of the 4th instant. The statements contained in that letter are termed by the Herald "sensational." A sensation must certainly have been created by their appearance in the sanctum of the Indian Ring clique at Helena, as the effect is noticed in the fact of the Herald coming out with an able editorial of assertions, and requests for this and that gentleman to come to the rescue, interspersed with figures which must amaze the officials whose duty it is to collect statistics of that nature. Though not called upon for assistance, I deem it my duty to offer my humble aid to the Herald in this matter, especially as I am inclined to believe that the parties who have been challenged will fail to respond. And then, you know, while helping the Herald out of the scrape I will be performing my duty towards some of the Indian clique's officials whom that journal has unwittingly placed in a false position. The following extract from the letter in question seems to be the only statement which the friends of the Blackfoot Agency desire to contradict: "Not a solitary Blackfoot Indian, and not more than ten lodges all told of Blood Indians have visited the so-called Blackfoot Agency, nor ever crossed into the south side of the British line, except as war parties, for the past ten years."

The Herald asserts that for the period named not less than 4,000, and often 5,000, Indians of the Blackfoot nation or tribe, of the bands of Piegiens, Bloods, etc., have received annually annuities and supplies at the Blackfoot Agency. Now it seems to me that the Herald is either woefully ignorant of the true condition of affairs at the Blackfoot Agency, or what is more, for some reason best known to themselves have in the excitement attending the "sensation" which may reflect upon some of the friends of the Herald taken upon themselves to create statistics in direct contradiction to the official reports of the Blackfoot Agency. For a period of ten years. Well, let us drop by chance upon say the year 1874. The agent in charge of the Blackfoot Agency during that year reports the number of Bloods, Blackfeet, and Piegiens Indians to have been as follows: Piegiens, 2,450; Blackfeet, 1,500; Bloods, 1,500—total, 5,450. This report was written in September. The Herald says that in the spring following this report that over 5,200 Indians, by actual count, were on hand at the Blackfoot Agency. According to the Herald's statement, almost every Indian of the above-mentioned tribes were present at the Agency last spring. This I know was not the case, for to my own knowledge over 300 lodges of Blackfeet and Blood Indians were camped upon British soil, some in the immediate vicinity of Fort McLeod. But hear what the official report says concerning the Blood and Blackfeet Indians:

"The tribes entitled to report and draw rations at the Agency are the Blackfeet, Bloods, and Piegiens. For several years the two former have ranged across the line, none of the Blackfeet coming here, occasionally a few of the Bloods." Now, Mr. Herald, what do you think of that "strange story?" which, as far as I can learn, does not come from Benton. Either the Blackfoot letter is correct and the Herald wrong, or the Herald's statistics are reliable and the official report false; but this report has passed one year without question as to its accuracy, and cannot at this late date be thrown aside as worthless on the rambling statement of a newspaper. The Herald's idea of the number of Indians at the Agency last spring is far from being as accurate as the statement in the Blackfoot letter concerning the number of Piegiens Indians who draw annuities at the Blackfoot Agency. The Herald says that "between 1,000 and 1,200 Indians are camped at this time near the Agency," and adds, "this number will be swelled to probably

The writer of the Blackfoot letter estimates the number at about 150 lodges, or about 1,500 Indians, and the swelling which the Herald speaks of must undoubtedly mean the 300, in difference. But let us analyze a little more of these statements, these reliable statistics of the "Pioneer."

"Two years ago a Herald representative visited the Blackfoot Agency when nearly 5,000 Indians were receiving their annuities." The representative of the Herald on that occasion must have been as adept in the swelling process as the writer of the Herald's Indian Ring argument is to-day. Two years ago, well, the official report of two years ago is at hand. The agent in charge of the Blackfoot Agency at that time reports the number of Indians as follows: "Blackfeet, 3,000; Bloods 1,750; Piegiens, 2,750; total 7,500." Now hear what the agent says in regard to those who received annuities: "Of these the Piegiens are the only Indians who as a tribe come to the Agency for supplies. One band of the Bloods under the chief Running Rabbit also come regularly for their rations; but every effort on my part to induce the Blackfeet and the main camp of Bloods to visit the Agency has thus far proved abortive. These tribes range north of the British line, from two hundred and fifty to four hundred miles from the Agency." How this official report agrees with the statement of the "Herald." Instead of nearly 5,000 the number of Indians which the "Herald" man saw at the Agency did not amount to 3,000 and thus the enormous statistical swellings of the "Herald" are reduced by thousands.

I do not know who is the author of the Blackfoot letter nor aught of his motives; he undoubtedly knows what he says when inviting an investigation of his statements. But an old regard which I have for the "Herald" and the Indian outfit in general bids me to offer one word in warning to that journal. Under no consideration—pecuniary, I mean, of course—use figures or statistics of any kind in helping Indian agents or their understrappers out of their scrapes, for if you do, like on the present occasion you will mire in the descent of the thousands, and then, you know, you cannot expect the assistance of your devoted friend,

JACK BLUNT.

BRITISH AMERICA.

Lively Trade Anticipated—Indians Showing Signs of Hostility—Another American Citizen Arrested—What will the U. S. Government do About it?

FORT McLEOD, B. A., Sept. 20, 1875.

To the Editor of the Record:

If competition insures successful trade, then indeed may we look forward to a busy season—the busiest, perhaps, for many years. To Benton, of course, this news must be gratifying; for, as the fur centre and peltry market of the North and Northwest, and the produce market of these Territories, a large trade to us means a heavy and plentiful market for Benton. Building is the rage here. Trading posts are being erected as if by magical hands. Among those who are now building are Messrs Conrad, of the firm of I. G. Baker & Co., and T. C. Power & Co. Mr. Conrad is building at Bow river, near the site of the new Police fort. Power & Co. are building at Fort McLeod, and will also build on Bow river. The Police fort is being constructed on that river, almost 100 miles northwest of this point. If built according to plan, it will be the finest post in the—well, in the Northwest. One troop will be stationed here, the remainder of the force at the new post.

The Indians in this vicinity are getting independent in worldly riches, consequently saucy, some of them openly hostile. The Kootenays killed a white man, about ten days ago, named Allen, a partner of Neil Campbell's. The upshot of the present existing feelings among the half-breeds, Indians, and Police will be an Indian war. It would require but little excuse for the Indians to begin even now. It is hoped, however, that such an event will be averted, as trade to an extent would be injured thereby.

We have just received news of the arrest of another of your "American citizens" at Cypress. Farwell was informed that Bell was in the vicinity, and he had him arrested, and sent to Garry with the other two prisoners. It is rather surprising to us that Bell should be arrested; for, as we are informed, he was a witness for the

the witness stand we are aware, and that he gained notoriety for himself and the enmity of our authorities at the same time by his truthful and unflinching testimony under a severe and lengthy cross-examination.

What has been done by the American officials in the matter? They say out here that your Government has enough to do to watch the treasury, lest the Rings—whatever they may be—may plunder the nation's wealth. Be that as it may, they might see that these men, citizens of a great Republic, now prisoners in a foreign land, received the benefit of a fair trial, and that their witnesses were on hand at the trial, even if it took the whole army of the United States to protect them in transit, from British vengeance. N. W.

THE FORT GARRY PRISONERS.

Letter from Governor Potts to Travanton Hale—Mr. Hale's Reply.

THE TERRITORY OF MONTANA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
HELENA, M. T., September 22, 1875.

To T. Hale,

Fort Benton, Montana.

SIR:—Vogle, Bell and Hughes, citizens of Montana, have been arrested by the Canadian authorities and are held for trial at Fort Garry, October fifteenth, for the murder of certain Indians at Cypress Hill in 1873. The above named parties desire your attendance as a witness in their behalf at Fort Garry October 15th proximo. Also the attendance as witnesses of Jeff. Deveraux, John Devoy, Joseph Carr, John Joe, and George Powell. You will please notify said parties of the place and time of trial and of the request of Vogle, Bell, and Hughes. Very truly,

B. F. POTTS.

Governor of Montana.

To Hon. B. F. Potts, Governor of Montana,
Helena, M. T.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22d instant, relative to my attendance as a witness at the trial of Vogle, Bell, and Hughes, at Fort Garry, B. A., on the 15th of October next. As directed, I have notified the parties mentioned by you, except Carr, who is at present at or near Fort McLeod, B. A.

It would be an act of injustice to ourselves and to the men imprisoned at Fort Garry to allow this bare acknowledgement to escape without an explanation of the cause of our inability to proceed to Fort Garry as witnesses, and of the nature of the evidence of which the prisoners are consequently deprived. At the time of the fight, Vogle was in the employ of Moses Solomon, and was a cripple. His feet had been frozen, and he could not walk without the aid of crutches. He was not in any way connected with the fight. After the fight, Vogle desired to proceed to Whoop Up with some of our party, but he had no means of transportation. On learning of this, a half breed gave him a horse, which it seems had belonged to the camp of Indians that fired on us. Of this, however, Vogle was ignorant. Immediately preceding the fight Bell was in the employ of Solomon as night watchman. In consequence of the hostility of the Indians and their repeated threats to clean out the white men, this precaution became necessary, and on our arrival at Solomon's fort, Bell was performing that duty. On the day of the fight, as far as we know, Bell was in Solomon's fort. We are positive that he was not in any way engaged in the fight. Hughes was the only one of the three men that belonged to our party, which was known during the examination at Helena, M. T. as the Benton party. At the time the fighting occurred Hughes was not with us, he was on the other side of the river near the forts of Farwell and Solomon. During the fight Hughes did not connect with us, nor at any time until all was over. He could not have been engaged in the fight without our knowledge.

Without going into details of the evidence, the above brief summary of the same which we are willing to tender will enable your Excellency to perceive the necessity of immediate steps being taken by the U. S. authorities to stay the trial, and to procure the valuable testimony, which is at the command of the U. S. Government, lest these men, its own citizens, who are truly innocent, should in the absence of this evidence be declared guilty on the required and paid testimony of an informant.